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COMET NOTES.

Comet *IV* 1895 is still visible in the thirty-six inch telescope; but is not brighter than a 16th magnitude star. According to theory, it should be between 11th and 12th magnitude.

Comet *a* 1896 has been lost to view for about two months, its apparent motion having carried it into the Sun's rays.

C. D. PERRINE.

Comet *c* 1896, SWIFT. In the latter part of May, and in June, the brightness of this comet decreased very rapidly; in fact, out of all proportion to the law of the inverse squares of its distances from the Earth and from the Sun. This was probably due to its want of any visible nucleus, and to its diffuseness. It remained of large apparent size as long as it was visible.

W. J. HUSSEY.

THE YERKES OBSERVATORY.

No. 43 of these *Publications* contains a short account of the Yerkes Observatory, of the University of Chicago, by the Director, Professor GEORGE E. HALE. He has recently contributed an article on the same subject to the *Astronomische Nachrichten* (No. 3356) from which it appears that a twenty-four inch reflector of eight feet focal length will occupy one of the smaller domes instead of the sixteen-inch refractor at first proposed.

This article also states that the publications of the Observatory will include *Bulletins*, containing announcements of results, brief descriptions of new buildings and instruments, and notes; *Contributions*, consisting of papers contributed to scientific journals; *Annals*, containing detailed accounts of special researches; the *Astrophysical Journal* (now in its fourth volume); and *Terrestrial Magnetism* (now in its first volume).

The staff of the observatory is as follows: GEORGE E. HALE, Director and Astrophysicist; S. W. BURNHAM, Astronomer; E. E. BARNARD, Astronomer; F. L. O. WADSWORTH, Astrophysicist; L. A. BAUER, Geophysicist; FERDINAND ELLERMAN, Assistant; G. WILLIS RITCHEY, Optician; EDMUND KANDLER, Mechanician; WILLIAM GAERTNER, Mechanician.

Messrs. T. J. J. SEE and KURT LAVES will give graduate and undergraduate instruction in theoretical and practical astronomy

at the University in Chicago, and superintend the work of the Students' Observatory on the University campus. A library and a museum are being established at the Observatory, for which contributions are requested.

The Observatory is to be dedicated on the 15th of October.

R. G. AITKEN.

MERIDIAN-CIRCLE FOR SALE.

The meridian-circle of the Georgetown College Observatory has been replaced by a photographic transit instrument, and is to be disposed of for want of room.

The instrument has two large circles of forty-five inches in diameter, one for clamping, the other with a fine graduation on silver, reading to five minutes of arc; and an object-glass of four inches aperture. There are eight microscopes, four on each pier, reading directly single seconds of arc; a micrometer with four eye-pieces, one for collimating over mercury; and a striding-level. The instrument was made by TROUGHTON & SIMMS, and cost originally \$2200. A few years ago it was put in good working order by FAUTH & Co. A full description of it will be found in the first publication of the observatory, 1852, p. 193 ss. The observing and reversing-chairs will be given with the instrument.

Apply to the Director of Georgetown College Observatory, Washington, D. C.

EIGHT-INCH CLARK EQUATORIAL FOR SALE.

The Napa College proposes to sell its eight-inch equatorial. The object-glass was made by ALVAN CLARK & SONS, and the mounting by FAUTH & Co., at a cost of \$2300. Intending purchasers should address Hon. S. E. HOLDEN, Napa. E. S. H.

MIRA CETI.

[Extract from a private letter from W. STEADMAN ALDIS].

"I was much interested in the observations of *Mira Ceti* in the last number of the *A. S. P. Publications* [No. 48]. I had never watched it myself until last December. I could first glimpse it with the naked eye about December 15th, six days after the maximum as given in *The Observatory*. * * * Owing to moonlight, and bad weather, I could not catch it again until December 29th, when it was quite plain to the naked eye, and